Return of The Mount Hua – Chapter 675. Who does this concern? (5)

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"We're running out of alcohol!"

"I'm going right now!"

"Meat! More meat!"

"There's no meat to serve! You, run to the restaurant!"

"Yes!"

After the unprecedentedly concise founding ceremony, the banquet continued immediately.

Those who witnessed the founding of the Heavenly Comrade Alliance gathered in threes and fives, discussing the day's events and speculating on future developments.

"Isn't it a bit different from what we thought it would be?"

"I was thinking the same thing... I thought the Heavenly Comrade Alliance would boldly declare that they would rule the western part of Jungwon."

"Hey, you! Do you think the Heavenly Comrade Alliance is the only power in the western Jungwon? Qingcheng and Emei Sect are obviously watching, and don't forget Kunlun and Jeomchang, too! Moreover, Kongtong Sect also has a presence in the west!"

"That's right."

"In addition, there is still Southern Edge Sect even though it has entered Bongmun! It won't be easy for the Heavenly Comrade Alliance to fully exert its power!"

"That's right… but….”

Those who were about to respond glanced at each other and hesitated to speak further.

In fact, if they had heard this before the founding ceremony, they would have nodded without hesitation.

Qingcheng, Emei, Kongtong, Jeomchang, and Jongnam.

It meant that five of the Ten Great Sect were still not part of the Heavenly Comrade Alliance and remained in the western region.

However...

'Jeomchang and Kunlun Sect are so far away that they hardly ever venture into Jungwon.'

Moreover, these two sects were so remote that there is nothing to say even if they were being considered as Outer Clan. Although they were part of the Ten Great Sect, their influence did not extend to Jungwon.

'And Qingcheng and Emei tend to lag behind even among the Ten Great Sect.'

If they hadn't seen the founding ceremony, they wouldn't have ranked Qingcheng and Emei Sect below the Heavenly Comrade Alliance. However, now they doubted whether these two sects could actually handle the Heavenly Comrade Alliance.

Of course, if one were to compare the strength of each sect, the Qingcheng and Emei Sect might be stronger than the four main sects of the Heavenly Comrade Alliance. Even if they weren't, they wouldn't lag too far behind.

However, the Ten Great Sect was a loose alliance, while the Heavenly Comrade Alliance was tightly bound together. No one underestimated the significance of this difference.

"It's strange, isn't it?"

"That's right."

They kept their thoughts to themselves, unable to speak them aloud. The atmosphere was subtly uneasy.

They had gathered, confident that the existence of the Heavenly Cormade Alliance would bring a fresh wind to Jungwon, but the changes they had anticipated would take at least ten years if not twenty.

None of them had expected that the founding would have such a powerful impact on the western part of Jugnwon so soon. However, the situation seemed more radical and aggressive than they had thought.

A mild declaration and a concise and concise ceremony.

But the will hidden behind it was more upright and solid than anyone had imagined.

"...Even though they spoke moderately if you think about it, this is no different from a declaration of resistance."

"But to that extent... How can they share a brotherhood relationship when the Sichuan Tang Family, a famous sect in Jungwon, and Mount Hua, a Taoist sect?"

"It doesn't have to be seen that way, you know? This is..."

But before he could say anything else, he looked around and quickly shut his mouth. It wasn't something to bring up in a place where the members of Heavenly Comrade Alliance were coming and going.

'Foolish people. So complacent...'

He clicked his tongue as he watched others lost in their carefree thoughts.

'They don't understand at all what it means to become brothers.'

It might be rare, but what if Kunlun Sect, a member of the Ten Great Sect, went to war due to a problem with the surrounding sects?

Will the other Ten Great Sect members step up to help?

Not a chance.

No one in the Ten Great Sect would come forward to help Kunlun. Each sect's business is its own. Ultimately, the Ten Great Sect is nothing more than a loose coalition for moving under a single name when a major event occurs in Kangho.

But what if the same thing happened in Namman Yasugung Clan?

It seemed clear that Sichuan Tang Family and Mount Hua would immediately go to the rescue, and even the distant North Sea Ice Clan would come running with their teeth clenched.

In the end, if only one sect among them became an enemy, they would have to face the other three sects simultaneously. They wouldn't dare to do that easily.

'Nothing has changed, but on the other hand, everything has changed.'

The moment the four sect leaders who came to Jungwon exchanged brotherhood drink, the meaning of this banquet changed completely.

Sects sharing a brotherhood drink with each other was unheard of. The course of the world is so uncertain that it's impossible to predict what will happen the next day. It's not surprising that today's friend could become tomorrow's enemy and stab you in the back in Kangho.

The heads of the great sect who should know this fact better than anyone else form a brotherhood? This was never going to happen under normal circumstances.

But no matter how much he thought about it, he couldn't guess the reason. Even though they received favors, the Outer Clan wouldn't be naive enough to call themselves brothers just for that...

"What are you thinking about so deeply?"

"Huh? N- No. It's nothing."

"Drink! We should drink first! Leave the thinking for later. Isn't it a good day?"

"Y- Yes! Hahaha! That's right!"

The lively drinking scene resumed.

Those without deep thoughts simply celebrated Heavenly Comrade Alliance's banquet, and those who had their own thoughts were busy looking at the surrounding atmosphere and the situation of the alliance while sharing drinks.

Those with many thoughts were lost in deep contemplation with stiff faces, unable to fit in with the noisy surroundings.

And in the midst of all this, the factor that caused this situation... No, the culprit who twisted it strangely was being extremely irritable with a childish face.

"No, did I say something wrong?!"

"……"

"If you've seen everything, you should go home. Why are you sitting around and pouring drinks like it's your home! So noisy!"

"… Alright, just speak quietly, Chung Myung. Someone might hear you."

"I said it for them to hear so of course they had to hear it!! These yangbans came here to play...…"

That's when Chung Myung suddenly stopped talking and opened his mouth wide.

His eyes were shining to the fullest when he saw his white porcelain bottle that was pushed to his nose.

"…get this and go up there to drink."

"Can, can I really?"

"......Please, just go. I'm begging you."

"Hehe. Alright, then."

Chung Myung quickly snatched the liquor bottle that Baek Cheon held out. Baek Cheon let out a deep sigh.

"Are you sure you don't mind, Sasuk? But it's our Sect's event."

"......Then you go and follow him around to stop him."

"You've made an extremely wise and intelligent decision, Sasuk."

"……."

Just then, Chung Myung, who had been eyeing the liquor bottle and drooling, suddenly turned to Baek Cheon with a puzzled face and asked.

"By the way, when are those yangban leaving?"

"I heard that such a big event usually lasts for three days and nights."

"What? Th- Three days? Are there ghosts of people who died from not drinking alcohol sticking around? Drinking alcohol for three days straight?"

"......That's a valid point, but I can't express my sorrow when it comes from your mouth."

"Hehe. Don't be so gloomy, anyway. It's such a fine day."

"……."

'Should I really just kill him?'

Baek Cheon sighed with empty eyes and continued speaking.

"Anyway.....Originally, it would have been held for three days and nights, but Sect Leader

decided to hold the banquet only until today, considering that it's not good to have a long feast at Taoist sect."

"Wow! As expected of Sect Leader. My stomach was turning upside down from watching these unknown people drinking in our house."

"......They're guests who came to congratulate us."

"Congratulations my ass. I'm sure they're here to get a drink. Have Sasuk ever sincerely congratulate someone at an event like this?"

"I have."

"Huh? You have?"

Chung Myung looked blankly at Baek Cheon as if he was shocked.

Looking at the expression that seemed to genuinely question, 'Am I the strange one?' Baek Cheon felt his heart crumbling.

‘Where the hell did this bastard's personality go wrong?’

‘What the hell did he go through before he came to Mount Hua? No, is it just his nature?’

"Anyway, quickly, quickly….”

Just as Chung Myung was about to get more irritated because of something, a hand suddenly reached out from somewhere and blocked their way.

"Huh?"

A graceful nobleman dressed in a splendid silk outfit and wearing a gorgeous headpiece was smiling brightly at the two.

"Don't fight like that, have a drink instead. It's very precious alcohol."

"Uh…."

"Uuh…?"

The mouths of the two people who had been dumbfounded for a moment opened simultaneously.

"You... you! This..."

"No…."

Even if the sky falls before his eyes, it is Chung Myung that will only click his tongue while saying, ‘No, why is the sky falling? It’s annoying!', but he couldn't help but open his mouth at the sight of the person who appeared just now.

"N- No, crazy.... No, are you really crazy?"

There is no one who should not come to Mount Hua. However, there are people who should consider not coming if they value their own lives.

The person standing before them right now is precisely that kind of person.

"Haha, I couldn't miss congratulating you on such a good day... *cough*! Ah, damn this mountain! Why is it so cold in here! *Cough*!"

As the nobleman covered his mouth and coughed violently, shaking his shoulders, Baek Cheon's jaw trembled in convulsion.

"Haha, seeing you so happy to see me, I am overwhelmed with emotion..."

"No! Has this guy really lost his mind!"

Chung Myung rushed toward the nobleman and grabbed him by the collar.

Instead of shouting, he looked around with trembling eyes. Fortunately, no one was paying attention to them as they were busy drinking and chatting. Chung Myung pulled him closer and hissed.

"Did you lose your fear after almost dying? Where do you think you are? Are you crazy?"

"Haha! A true friend risks his life..."

"What are you talking about, you crazy bastard!"

The flustered Chung Myung reflexively slapped the nobleman's jaw.

"*Kek*! Ho- How dare you hit someone who came to congratulate you?"

"I'm hitting you because it's me! If it was someone else, they would have killed you, you crazy bastard!"

The nobleman in splendid attire.

It was Im Sobyong, the Nokrim King.

"No, how can an Evil Sect bastard come crawling in here? Right now, this place is as packed with people who would hunt you down and kill you as an anthill with ants!"

Right now, Mount Hua is filled with the elites of the world's prestigious sects. Ten Great Sect, Five Great Family, and even yangban who've been dancing with swords are all gathered here at Mount Hua.

It would be the safest place in the world for Righteous Factions, but for Evil Faction, it's no different from the Eighteen Layers of Hell beyond Yongdam Lake.

Even those who usually can't make eye contact with Im Sobyong know that he was here now, it was clear that they would go wild to cut off his neck.

But what kind of nerve did he crawl all the way here?

"I'm asking you seriously. Are you crazy?"

"N- No, just wait. Don't get so excited."

Im Sobyong waved his hand and laughed triumphantly.

"That's why I came here in disguise like this!"

"……."

"Haha. No matter how many people there are, who would think I would come here dressed like this? When they think of Noklim King, they would usually think of a rugged, shaggy-looking guy in fur clothes."

"……."

"As proof, I've been here for two days already, and no one has recognized me. It's safe!"

Chung Myung's pupils trembled.

'N -No....'

'It seems plausible... but even so, it shouldn't be... but it's also true that he wasn't recognized...'

'Haha, I don't know.'

Anyway, there isn't a single normal person here.

"......So, why did you come here?"

"Of course, I had to."

Im Sobyeong replied with a rather serious face to Chung Myung's slightly resigned question.

"We may not have declared it officially, but Nokrim is also a faction that shares a brotherhood bond with Mount Hua."

"......Who?"

"There's no way for Nokrim, the center of the Heavenly Comrade Alliance, to not come when the alliance is having an opening ceremony!

"......So who is..."

"Haha. Don't worry. I understand Mount Hua's situation. I'll mingle a bit, sneak a peek at the other sect leaders, and leave. So, how about a drink until then? What do you think?"

Chung Myung smiled delightedly at Im Sobyong who shook the bottle of alcohol cheerfully.

"Get out of here, you Evil Sect scum!"

Life wouldn't get any easier just by crossing a mountain.

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|note

-+ Yongdam Lake: Also known as Yongdam Reservoir, it is a lake in South Korea formed by the construction of the Yongdam Dam on the Geum River. The lake is known for its picturesque scenery and recreational activities.

And, Eighteen Layers of Hell seems to be a variation of the concept of the "Ten Courts of Hell" or "Diyu," which is rooted in Chinese mythology, Buddhism, and Taoism. These "courts" or "layers" are a series of realms through which souls pass after death, facing various torments and trials in each realm as they undergo judgment for their actions in life.

It might indicate a challenging or difficult to endure, situation beyond the beautiful and peaceful Yongdam Lake.